



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Phil Montgomery, Chairperson
Eric Callisto, Commissioner
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

January 23, 2015

Re: Administration of the Universal Service Fund Grant Program for
Access Programs or Projects by Non-Profit Groups

5-GF-107

Prospective Grant Applicant:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is pleased to announce its release of Fiscal Year 2015 Grant Application Guidelines for the Nonprofit Access Program (Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.125(2)). The Nonprofit Access Program is a Universal Service Fund grant program used to fund nonprofit groups that facilitate affordable access to telecommunications services in Wisconsin. Up to \$500,000 may be available to award to applicants for this fiscal year.

The grant application deadline is March 13, 2015, for projects seeking funding from Fiscal Year 2015. For more information please review the complete guidelines before proceeding. They are found at <http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/tele/usf/programs/npSummary.htm>. Important items to note include:

- Applicant must be a nonprofit group (defined as an IRS § 501(c)(3) organization).
- Funding will be approved for projects for no more than one year.
- Matching funds are required for 50 percent of the total project cost (dollar for dollar match).
- The project must assist customers in areas of the state that have relatively high costs of telecommunication services, customers that are low-income, or customers with disabilities, in obtaining affordable access to essential telecommunications services.¹

In past grant cycles the types of projects funded have varied widely; from programs focused on getting basic telephone service to low-income households to programs focused on providing assistance to disabled individuals in obtaining and installing specialized telecommunication equipment. Since the Link-Up America assistance ended in 2010, the potential scope of projects that could fund access to basic services for low-income consumers is expanded.

Should you have any questions regarding the grant application guidelines, please contact me at 608-267-9624 or jeff.richter@wisconsin.gov. We look forward to receiving your grant application and learning about your proposed project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeff Richter

Jeff Richter
Universal Service Fund Director
Division of Business and Communications Services

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¹ Telecommunications access grants no longer fund access to the Internet or information services.

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